

the Federal Government alone to fix this problem. Instead, we must work with State governments, schools, students, and parents to find a solution.

Within the past decade, costs have risen 66 percent beyond the rate of inflation. Instead of trying to work with schools, the Federal Government has been busy implementing policies that increase their costs. My colleagues and I on the Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee are looking at how to simplify and strengthen Federal aid programs.

It's obvious more needs to be done to help students and families make the best decision possible about their education at a price they can afford. My goal is to continue to identify and remove unnecessary and costly burdens from this process and put the dream of higher education in reach of more students.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, climate change, in my view, is real, it's urgent, and we must make progress or ignore it at our peril. But whether we agree or disagree, whether you're a climate change believer or denier, there are things that we can do together for the benefit of the environment and the economy.

We can focus the debate on energy efficiency; we can save money through making our homes and buildings more energy efficient; we can put people back to work and buy American products; and, in the process, we can cut down on harmful carbon emissions and make progress on climate change and strengthen our economy.

That is why I've joined with my friend from West Virginia, DAVID MCKINLEY, in introducing the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, which proposes practical solutions to bolster energy efficiency. This bill will speed our transition to a more energy efficient economy—increasing America's economic competitiveness in energy security—and build jobs.

By finding areas where we actually do agree and working together, we can make progress on the environment and on the economy.

MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Whether it's jobs or our Nation's debt, the economy is still the number one issue for hardworking Americans. But, instead of supporting initiatives like the Keystone pipeline, something that would create 20,000 jobs

and help secure our energy supply, this administration continues to pursue the same failed economic policies. Their budget adds over \$8 trillion to the debt, raises taxes by another trillion dollars, and they continue to support a burdensome health care law that does nothing to address the issue of rising costs.

The House is working on solutions to create a stronger, healthier economy with more jobs and opportunities for all Americans. We have passed legislation to replace the sequester, to balance the budget, to repeal the President's health care law, and we're working on reforming our broken Tax Code to make it more fair and efficient.

It's time for the administration to get on board: stop creating problems like politically motivated flight delays and start helping to make life easier for American families.

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HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY LEADERS

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Tomorrow, the Alameda County Labor Council will be hosting their annual Unionist of the Year awards dinner where local labor leaders will be recognized for their tireless advocacy on behalf of hardworking Americans.

One of these great leaders is Obray Van Buren, who will be honored with the Unionist of the Year award. Obray has been a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342 for 30 years. Obray is also on the board of directors for Tri-CED Community Recycling, a company which gives many former offenders and at-risk youth a chance at life. This organization proudly serves both Hayward and Union City in my district.

Also honored will be California's Attorney General Kamala Harris, an Alameda County native who also, like me, served in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and will be honored as the Warrior Woman of the Year. Attorney General Harris is committed to defending the interests of working families who are the backbone of our economy.

Other honorees include Rachel Bryan, Jason Gumataotao, Tanya Pitts, Tamara Perine, Bud Beal, and Christine Garrett.

Once again, congratulations to all honorees. Alameda County appreciates your efforts to ensure that worker rights and benefits are always protected.

REMEMBERING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BARRETT L. AUSTIN

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with heavy heart

to honor a military hero and one of my constituents, and a casualty of war. Private First Class Barrett L. Austin died on April 21 after being a casualty, I believe, of an IED while serving his country in Afghanistan. Barrett Austin was just 20 years old. He was assigned to A Company, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Georgia. Private First Class Austin was a beloved son, husband, friend, and soldier from the Dacusville-Easley, Pickens County area of South Carolina.

My heart goes out to his wife, his parents, and all of those who called Barrett a friend. This true American hero has made the true sacrifice in defense of our great Nation, and we owe him our eternal gratitude. This Nation remains the greatest on Earth because of people like Barrett Austin, and we must never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we enjoy.

So on behalf of the Third District of South Carolina and the entire Nation, we thank you, Barrett, for your sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the entire Austin family. May God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

SUPPORTING SPECIALTY CROPS

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution in support of specialty crops, with support from Members of Congress across the country. Specialty crops, such as fruits and vegetables, are a significant part of agriculture, with annual production valued at over \$50 billion. This is about half of the value of all U.S. crops, but specialty crops aren't given the same attention or financial support as our traditional commodities.

Specialty crops are a major source of economic activity, jobs, and our Nation's food supply. Every State has at least some specialty crop production, and my district is no different. In Whatcom and Skagit counties, hundreds of specialty crops are grown, totaling millions in sales each year. Specialty crops grown on farms in Snohomish and King counties provide fresh, quality foods to our schools, restaurants, and farmers markets.

As Congress begins to consider another farm bill, it is important to acknowledge how vital specialty crops are to our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that programs in support of specialty crops are highlighted and fully funded.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1